

June 20, 2006  
Virtual High School Advisory Council

- 1) Reviewed agenda
  - a. Additional fee cost
  - b. Rick reminded the group that this is an advisory capacity only and that many items that are related and DOE will make final decisions
  - c. We need to start small and deal with issues as they come up
- 2) State website review
  - a. Updated with all documents and meeting info
- 3) Website design for storefront – Mary Stadick-Smith, Communications Officer and Jacci Carey, DOE web-master met with the advisory council to discuss the website presence. The following were items of discussion:
  - a. State will become the clearinghouse for courses that have been approved by DOE
  - b. Although courses must be approved by local school district, it was determined that this is a student driven website
  - c. Courses need to allow students to determine what works best for them – customer friendly
  - d. Discussion centered around whether or not NSU should be part of the website
    - i. They are limited to a certain market of schools that are sparse
    - ii. They cannot offer courses to ALL of the State of South Dakota
    - iii. Determined that perhaps it should be on the site but a different registration
  - e. Courses should be searchable with descriptions of cost, type, etc
  - f. \*\*\*Standardized registration \*\*\*
  - g. \*\*\*Registration may only occur through a school district – not individual students\*\*\*
    - i. Gives administration course control in determining where and how the student is getting credit
    - ii. Guidance for individual students who may or may not do well in online environment
    - iii. Brings home school students into the school district

**It is the state's intention to have the district offer the credit – NOT the virtual high school. This is NOT a diploma granting entity**

4) Dr. Melmer discussed how fees might be handled for courses. Fee options:

- State pays provider for any and all courses
- State pays for core courses only
- School pays for courses to provider by student by course

- Student pays

Some important questions that we want to address at the next meeting:

- 1) Pay only for completers?
- 2) Equitable fee structure for all providers?
- 3) Additional ADM for those that are taking from a distance?
- 4) State would not subsidize outside providers?
- 5) What about APEX?
- 6) Attach a fee to courses?
- 7) Pay based on completers?

## 5) Vision of the Virtual High School

### A. Roles of different entities

- a. State will bring and enforce uniformity
- b. The state is more administrative in function
  - i. Catalog
  - ii. Quality issue for curriculum and teachers
  - iii. Registration
- c. Providers
  - i. Traditionally tried to figure out the market on their own
  - ii. See providers becoming more of a broker
  - iii. Quality assurance that classes are appropriate
- d. Instructors
  - i. Individuals may be both provider and instructor
- e. Schools
  - i. Are they required for a facilitator?
  - ii. Minimum number of students?
  - iii. Is there a list of assurances from school?

## 6) Review of the rules

- a. Discussion was held regarding the reference to “Compliance with ADA” – edits were made to assure that the provider works with local districts to provide necessary accommodations
- b. Rules will go to Board of Education in July

## 7) Review of the Distance Learning Provider document

- a. Changes made and updated

Outcomes from the meeting:

- ✓ Erica Tallman – comfort level with provider form & want to know what the course evaluation form looks like
- ✓ Rick Bates – Wants an update regarding website next time
- ✓ Ann Smith – Clearer idea of where things are going

- ✓ Ryan Olson – Funding critical for next time's discussion
- ✓ Dan Guericke – Much better picture of where we are heading.  
How does accreditation fit into the process with offerings of distance courses?
- ✓ Suzanne Hegg – Pleased with website movement and anxious to see where this will head